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OCI No. 1676/67

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
26 November 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Cyprus Situation
(As of 4:00 P.M. EST)

1. There is little new, pending the arrival of Cyrus Vance in Ankara.
2. Press reports from Athens say Greece has accepted "all" of Turkey's demands on Cyprus.
3. In Turkey, according to the press, major cities are blacked out tonight and there is no relaxation in the high state of alert.

DOS, JCS review(s) completed.

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OCI No. 1974/67

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
26 November 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Cyprus Situation
(As of 8:00 AM EST)

1. Presidential Envoy Cyrus Vance met with Greek Foreign Minister Pipinelis for two hours last night to discuss the results of his talks in Ankara and was scheduled to meet with him again today. Vance expects to return to Ankara either today or early tomorrow in a continuing effort to draw Greece and Turkey back from the brink of war. Details of the peace plan are sketchy, but there appears to have been some agreement in principal on the withdrawal of Greek and Turkish troops from Cyprus.

2. Prior to his departure from Ankara Vance received a message from Pipinelis, containing a letter which presumably would become a secret annex to the proposed accord on troop removal, requiring that within four hours after Athens publicly announced steps being taken to repatriate Greek fighters from Cyprus, Ankara would issue a public statement on steps taken to reduce Turkish military preparedness to the level in effect prior to 14 November.

3. Vance still expects to visit Nicosia within the next few days, although the timing remains uncertain. He probably will not go to Nicosia, however, until the lines are cleared with Ankara and Athens. If Vance receives a favorable response during his current stay in Athens, he may send word to Ankara through Embassy channels and go directly to Nicosia.

4. Ambassador Talbot reports from Athens that since Saturday afternoon the Greek government appears to have been preparing the Greek public for acceptance of an appeal by the UN Secretary-General to withdraw non-Cypriot forces from the island.

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5. The Turkish position regarding Greek troop withdrawal remains inflexible, but there are indications that Ankara may be willing to compromise on the timing of the withdrawal. After a four-hour meeting of the Turkish National Security Council last night, an official spokesman stated that "we are prepared, strong, and determined." The statement gave no indications of Turkish reactions to the Vance mission, simply announcing that Turkey has made no concessions and that "we have demanded what our national interests necessitate." Press reports indicate that Turkey has reiterated her previous demands for a Greek troop withdrawal "lasting only a few days," and "observers" in Istanbul say that the Turkish government is under strong pressure from Turkish military leaders not to accept delaying tactics from the Greeks.

6. The Turkish military forces remain revved up to intervene on the island should diplomatic maneuvers fail. Troops practiced embarkation in landing craft yesterday as maneuvers continue along the southern coast facing Cyprus. As yet, there has been no general mobilization, but the subject is a leading topic of conversation among civilians, and Istanbul is scheduled to have blackout practice today.

7. A loud but orderly "on to Cyprus" demonstration was held in Izmir yesterday by a crowd of approximately 10,000. Anti-Americanism was a relatively minor part of the occasion, but one group of demonstrators did attempt to enter the block in which the American Consulate General is located. The tight guard by the local police restrained them from approaching the Consulate, and the group held a rally in front of the police station instead. The Consulate reports that 21 out of 23 Greek citizens who are members of families assigned to the Izmir NATO contingent left the city quietly on 24 November.

8. The situation in Athens remains outwardly calm and civilian life is going on as usual, although some apprehension among the populace is becoming evident. USCINCEUR feels that the Greek military considers that it has taken all possible measures to prepare for hostilities, and comments that senior Greek officers are almost relaxed. The general feeling among the Greek military is apparently that Greece has done all it can do, all it will do, and more than it should have done. They consider that the future now lies in the hands of the US and are prepared for the worst.

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9. Ambassador Belcher met with Makarios last night and urged that the Cypriot Prime Minister accept a limited demilitarization which would involve the removal of all non-Cypriot forces in excess of the London/Zurich treaty levels. Makarios and his foreign minister, however, both avowed that total demilitarization cannot be postponed, apparently oblivious to the dangers involved if the troop issue is not resolved. Belcher commented that for the first time in five years of knowing Makarios the Archbishop was using his worry beads, and added that he and the foreign minister had theirs in action too. Meanwhile, terrorist incidents are continuing on the island. Nine bomb explosions went off Saturday in Nicosia and three villages. Barricades on the island have been reinforced and people are reportedly leaving Nicosia for the mountains. Turkish reconnaissance flights continued over the island through yesterday.

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